

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04010 140852Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
SS-15 SSM-05 /075 W  
-----015451 140906Z /10

P 140712Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8773  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USICA WASHDC  
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4010

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: SOPN, SY, LE  
SUBJ: PHALANGE AND LIBERALS CHARACTERIZED AS TRAITORS AND AGENTS

1. OVER LAST SEVERAL DAYS SYRIA PRESS AND RADIO CONTINUE TO ATTACK THE LEBANESE RIGHTISTS IN STRONG TERMS. THEIR ACTIONS SOMETIMES LINKED TO REVIVAL OF HIGH-LEVEL EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CONTACTS. EFFORTS ARE MADE IN BOTH EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES ON LEBANON TO BUILD CASE FOR WIDESPREAD LEBANESE SUPPORT OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES. WIDESPREAD APPEALS FOR SARKIS TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE ARE CHARACTERIZED AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR LEBANON.

2. AL-BAATH JULY 12 CLAIMS THAT "THE PARTIES TO THE SETTLEMENT CONSPIRACY HAD SEEN THE GROWTH OF OPPOSITION IN EGYPT AND IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO SADAT'S INITIATIVE...  
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THEREFORE THEY RUSHES TO INCITE THEIR PHALANGIST AND CHAMOUNIST AGENTS IN THE LEBANESE AREA TO EXPLODE THE SITUATION AND CREATE OBSTACLES FOR SYRIA." THAWRA AVOIDS REFERENCE TO THE PEACE TALKS BUT IS NO LESS HARSH IN CASTIGATING THE MILITEAS. IT DECLARES THAT, "THE ONLY ESCAPE FROM THE CURRENT LEBANESE CRISES...CAN BE REACHED BY ISOLATING THE ELEMENTS OF DESTRUCTION AND BY PUTTING AN

END TO NATIONAL TREASON...HIRELINGS AND TRAITORS SHOULD  
BE SEVERELY PUNISHED..."

3. SAME EDITORIAL IN THAWRA IN REFERRING TO SARKIS STATES:  
"AS LONG AS THERE IS A GENERAL LEBANESE TREND DEMANDING  
PRESIDENT SARKIS FOREGO HIS RESIGNATION AND REJECTING ALL  
FORMS OF PARTITION AND DESTRUCTION...THE LEBANESE NATIONAL  
POSITION WILL BE ALBE TO STRONGLY CONFRONT THE ISOLATIONISTS  
AND TRAITORS." A NEWS ARTICLE IN THAWRA REPORTS THAT  
INTENSIVE POLITICAL EFFORTS WERE UNDER WAY TO PERSUADE  
SARKIS TO ABANDON HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN. IT SAID THOSE  
SEEKING THIS ALSO SAW "THE NEED FOR PUTTING AN END TO  
THE NATIONAL TREASON BEING COMMITTED BY GANGS OF PHALANGISTS  
AND CHAMOUNISTS."

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTS ON SUPPORT WHICH SYRIA RECEIVING  
FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS INCLUDING MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO  
PRESIDENT ASSAD FROM ARCHBISHOP HILARION CAPUCCI.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
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